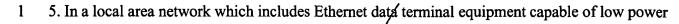
What is claimed is:

- 1. A method of conserving power consumption in a communication system which includes
- 2 components capable of selectively entering a low power mode and an auto-negotiation feature by
- 3 exchanging messages indicative of a low power mode capability, using an auto-negotiation
- 4 feature to interpret exchanged signals to verify that connected systems include the low power
- 5 mode capability, and transmitting a signal that a communications session is completed to cause
- 6 connected systems to enter the low power mode.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said auto-negotiation feature is a next-page facility.
- 3. The method of claim 1 including a further step of employing the auto-negotiation feature
- 2 further to verify that the connected systems are eligible to enter the low power mode.
- 4. In a system utilizing a data communication device having a plurality of data exchange modes,
- 2 each of said modes operating at different speeds, one of which speeds consumes less power than
- another, protocol means for compatibly coupling said data communication device to another
- 4 data communication device for exchanging/data therebetween, and selection means in said data
- 5 communication device for a data exchange mode having a higher speed than the others, a method
- for switching to a least power consuming speed which consumes when in an idle mode by
- 7 exchanging data representative of said data communication devices ability to operate at the least
- 8 power consuming speed, decoding via said protocol means said representative data, and changing
- 9 to said least power consuming/speed in response to another protocol signal.





- 2 modes and employing auto-negotiation, a method for conserving power consumption during
- periods of low usage by using a next-page aspect of the auto-negotiation feature to communicate
- among terminal data equipment each equipment's capability to assume a low power mode,
- 5 detecting periods of low network usage, verifying in response to detection of low network usage
- 6 that each equipment is eligible to assume the low power mode by use of the auto-negotiation
- 7 feature, and asserting signals to put each eligible equipment in a low power mode of operation.

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